

# Introducing H. W. Mager, Chief U.S. Agent to Enforce "Dry" Law

Traits Surprisingly in Contrast to Mental Pictures Conjured Up by Prohibition Mark Personality of Youngest Man to Hold Government Post of Such Responsibility

By ALBERT WHITING FOX.

HARRY W. MAGER of Chicago, who has been appointed chief of revenue agents to supervise the administration of the liquor and narcotic law, is certain to be one of the central figures in the coming prohibition campaign of the United States Government. He will be in charge of the enforcement of prohibition in so far as it affects the revenue service, and the prospects are that he will ultimately take over full control of this work with Department of Justice agents cooperating.

In any event he will be one of the most talked of men when nationwide enforcement of prohibition comes to the test, and there is naturally keen interest in the career, the personality and the ideas of this man who will guide the activities of the Government along new and untried fields.

Judging solely by appearances, Mr. Mager is perhaps the last man one would pick for the important duty of enforcing a law which is designed to have such a profound effect on the habits of so many millions of American citizens. Instinctively one imagines the man at the helm in this governmental campaign to be an austere, somewhat tyrannical individual, with a devotion to every slogan of the Anti-Saloon League and an enthusiasm for prohibition doctrine surpassing even that of the typical prohibition lecturer. It would seem offhand as if Uncle Sam's prohibition agent must necessarily accentuate the characteristics of the various volunteer agents who sought to reform the nation long before the law took a hand. The picture of a mature reformer who has ever abjured intoxicating drink, to boot in every form, and even coffee, seems up in connection with the Government's official prohibition administrator and adviser.

## How He Really Looks.

It would therefore surprise many to enter Mr. Mager's office at the Treasury Department and find a youthful, clean-cut, matter-of-fact looking man puffing a cigar, reading over reports and answering the telephone all at the same time.

"This is Mr. Mager's secretary, I presume," visitors are prone to ask. "No, I'm Mr. Mager," comes the reply with courtesy and politeness, despite the rush of other work. "Draw up a chair. What can I do for you?"

Scarcely more than 29 years of age, Mr. Mager is the youngest man who has ever held a position of such responsibility in government service. He has been in his present line of work less than five years and most of this time was devoted to income tax investigations. He is now selected to guide the veteran revenue agents, some 2,500 in number, along new lines of activity and to provide the headwork and the judgment of the revenue agents for this branch of the Government in eliminating violations of the prohibition and narcotic laws. The visitor cannot help wondering why.

A few minutes' conversation with Mr. Mager shows a seriousness about his work, a tactful moderation of statement and a well balanced judgment, but with a rather free and easy manner. But still one wonders why he has been selected for this particular and important post. The explanation is found in looking back over Mr. Mager's brief but unusual career. He has risen to his present position because he is believed to possess qualifications which are precisely those needed to meet the emergency of making the enforcement of the new laws a success, namely, initiative, tact, judgment and common sense.

## His First Job Fall of Thrills.

Chicago, South Side, was the birthplace of Mr. Mager less than thirty years ago. As a youngster he went

to the St. James and the public schools, where he proved himself a good mixer, a good scrapper and a natural born leader among the boys of his age. His first job was in an undertaker's establishment, where he served as apprentice at the big salary of \$3 a week.

"And I had more money than than I have now," Mr. Mager says jokingly, "in view of the present cost of living."

This would seem like a dull job, but as a matter of fact it provided plenty of excitement. The morgue was at Twenty-fifth street and Cottage Grove avenue, and seldom a day went by that something did not happen in the burial line. The Illinois Central killed at least one man a week and often averaged more. The public bath near by contributed several per week from drowning, and this was without counting the persons who chose this spot to commit suicide.

There were plenty of thrills and young Mager had a great deal of experience early in life. He saw much of the seamy side of things and he did not forget some of the object lessons he learned. If he had needed anything to strikingly prove that the "ways of the transgressor are hard" he would have had it during these days of his early career.

## He Enters Politics.

But local politics, which absorbed energetic young men in those days, reached out and took young Mager away from this line of work and planted him down town as secretary to the chairman of the county committee, who was John McCarthy. Here he remained for two years until on Dec. 1, 1914, he was given a job as deputy collector in the revenue service. He was assigned to income tax work in the field under Dan J. Chapin, who was the revenue agent in charge.

This income tax work was brand new, so to speak, and some of the men under Chapin had no idea of how to go about it. Mager didn't know either, but he figured out that if a man used good American horse sense and stuck to the job he would soon get his bearings. He started in visiting taxpayers, examining their books, verifying the accuracy of their returns as filed and otherwise checking up on information which the Government desired. He got such data as he desired, but, more important still, he won the respect and friendship of the very men who were required to give him the data. They helped him and some went out of their way to give him valuable advice. As a result, Chapin summoned him to headquarters after he had been in the field about a year and said in effect:

"Mager, you seem to know how to deliver the goods in this new line of work. We want you to take charge of the entire State of Illinois (with the exception of thirteen districts) and show the hundred or so men under you how to get results."

Attracted Washington's Attention. It was not long before Mager began to make good. His men reported more delinquents than all the other divisions. Tax evaders were ferreted out with a neatness and despatch that opened the eyes of the officials in Washington, and it was this more than anything else that brought about Mager's present appointment. On May 1, 1918, he was made Assistant Chief of Revenue Agents and his appointment as chief to supervise the administration of the liquor and narcotic laws has followed. His friends believe that if he follows the same methods now which he used in Illinois he will not only enforce the law, but eliminate much of the friction which would inevitably result from tactless handling of this problem.

Mr. Mager has a general idea of how he is going to start his work after July 1, though he will not have anything to do with the activities of the Department of Justice along the same line. Indications are that the revenue agents and the agents of the Department of Justice will pursue their own



HARRY W. MAGER, CHIEF U.S. AGENT TO ENFORCE "DRY" LAW. ONLY ONE YEAR AGO HE WAS DEPUTY COLLECTOR OF THE PROHIBITION ACT.

lines toward enforcement of prohibition at the outset, but it is not probable that the work will gradually be absorbed by one single agency and that this will be under the revenue service.

In the enforcement of the law Mager takes the position that he is a firm believer in the present form of the United States Government and that as an administrative officer it is his duty to see that the law is respected and

obeyed. He has never been associated with the "wet" or the "dry." He is not the type of man who either realizes that prohibition is to be the greatest human blessing nor is he the type that says "I don't take much stock in this prohibition business, but I have to carry it out." He feels that his course is mapped out for him by the law of the land and that his job is to do as the law directs.

The problem in a broad sense is to

enforce prohibition, so far as Mr. Mager is concerned. But he fully realizes that there are wrong ways and right ways of procuring this enforcement. He does not propose to tolerate the wrong ways and will not permit his men to get results by methods which he regards as improper or unfair. But he is going to devote all his energy to what he regards as the right way.

This right way is primarily based on

the idea of cooperation with all the State and town agencies seeking to prevent violations and cooperation with the average citizens themselves, even those who do not abhor liquor. The big feature of the whole plan may be summarized in three words: "Eliminate the source."

By striking wherever possible at sources of supply Mr. Mager feels that he will accomplish more with one swoop than by wasting time and caus-

## A New Page of British History

By FRANK DILNOT.

THE House of Commons has decided to remodel the Government of the United Kingdom. The plan proposed will be of interest to students of constitutional government all over the world and of special interest to Americans because of the intention to adopt the Federal system.

By a majority of 187 to 84 the Commons have agreed to the establishment of separate legislatures for Scotland, England and Ireland. To some staid British minds this will be the American method with a vengeance. "State rights" may yet be a party cry in the old country.

Throughout history the trend of government in the United Kingdom has been toward unity. Well over a thousand years ago there were separate kingdoms in various parts of the country. Conflicts, mutual interests, foreign invasion, made England into a single whole, and as time went on the pressure of events united Wales and Scotland and Ireland under one flag and one Government. The centuries have their revenge. Once more there are to be several governing centres—though with this difference that the mother of Parliaments in London will be in existence for the consideration of vital policies affecting not one but all parts of the country, and of the associated dominions in various parts of the world which claim the British flag.

## It Will Interest the Irish.

A two days' debate in the House of Commons led to the endorsement of the scheme in general and the appointment of a committee to consider and report upon the whole matter. When peace is settled it will be one of the great political projects of the day, great not only to the United Kingdom itself, but as well to wide stretches of the earth's surface, including America. It has been repeatedly urged that the settlement of the Irish question is of the first importance for securing the permanent friendship of the American people. The new proposal necessarily includes home rule for Ireland as one of its parts. Irish Americans will probably be furiously interested. Americans as a whole will certainly have their eyes

toward the reactions which must follow the adoption of the plan. Ireland has been a thorn in the side of the British Empire since the days of the settlement of the British Dominions—Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, and possibly in indirect fashion India also.

The outstanding reasons for the change in British parliamentary government are threefold, and they overlap. First of all there is the real congestion of business at Westminster. Under present conditions the Commons are overburdened. Big work is both hurried and hampered because of the details of administration which could be dealt with far better in the locality concerned have to be discussed and settled at headquarters. There is of course a certain amount of devotion, but it is not nearly sufficient.

## Parliament's Time Wasted.

Why should the construction of a canal in Ireland or the provision of sleeping cars on a train in Scotland occupy the attention of a Parliament sitting in London? Local bills are almost continually before Parliament. Only a comparatively small number of members are interested but the whole machinery of the legislature is engaged on them. The three-quarters of an hour of questions to Ministers every day—a dramatic and important time—is often largely occupied with local inquiries to the exclusion of those which have national importance.

There is an informal association of Scottish members for Scottish affairs, of Welsh members for Welsh affairs, and everyone knows the Irish Nationalist organization. At times each of these sections holds the field in Parliament, generally on matters which could be arranged much better by a local legislature sitting in Edinburgh or Dublin. The other side of the case is that matters of great importance, the taxation of the country, general legislation, procedure on foreign affairs have insufficient time for their consideration. Practically all major measures have to be put through at least in part by means of the closure. A score of important projects at each session are never discussed at all. And one result of all this is to throw more and more power into the hands of the executive Government of the day, who being human are glad enough to escape the harassing debate, and on the plea of lack of time to push their plans through by means of their party ma-

jority. The British people have no love for either autocrats or bureaucrats. The growing power of the executive in Britain has lately led to many protests. The present proposal will assist in doing away with an increasing tendency to secret rule.

## It May Stop Agitation.

It cannot be doubted that one of the factors in the present position is the situation in Ireland. Britain wants to give Ireland home rule. The Sinn Féiners claim complete separation. The Irish Unionists, a quarter of the population, are against even home rule. In Dublin conducting Irish affairs the opposition to home rule on the one hand, the demand for separation on the other might simmer down and all classes of Irishmen would soon be working together for the common good. The difficulties of the initial establishment of an Irish Parliament would be a great deal softened if home rule for Ireland was but part of a scheme which gave home rule to Scotland and home rule to England. I dare say there will be both modifications and extensions in comparison with the Liberal home rule plan, but as a hard matter of fact the Federal plan will produce home rule.

There undoubtedly will be differences between the powers given to both Scotland and Ireland and those which are in the possession of Australia and Canada. Their proximity to England, the heart of the empire, and the necessity for safeguarding not only the lives, but the welfare of the people make it essential that in such matters as tariffs, for example, the central Parliament should not part with control.

## Question of Arming Airs.

Another sphere of policy in which there may be some modification is that of the provision of armed forces. The United Kingdom must provide for its defence as a whole and not in sections. It is impracticable, to say the least, for Ireland and Scotland to have a navy of their own. There will still remain a main and contentious difficulty about Ireland, but they will be much lessened in view of the fact that there will be difficulties, many of them similar though not identical, in connection with England and Scotland.

One of the most important parts of the new proposal is the direct bearing

it has on the government of the British Dominions. The war has brought the different parts of the British Empire closer together than ever before; so much is evident. The Dominions with free governments and under no compulsion rushed forward all their available men for the fight by the side of the mother country, and the valor of these overseas armies matched their affectionate loyalty. The safety of one was the safety of all. The three Prime Ministers, Borden from Canada, Hughes from Australia, Botha from South Africa, were continually to and fro in London to give counsel and help. Smuts, the South African, became a valuable member of the English Cabinet. It looks as if there is to be a combination on a permanent basis of this copartnership in government. There are many problems which affect the Empire as a whole, not only the supreme question of peace or war, and the conditions of safety, but also important every day matters such as free trade or tariffs for all sections of the Empire. It may be that members for the Dominions will sit in the central Parliament. It can hardly be doubted that statesmen from overseas will have seats in the Imperial Cabinet.

Old Customs to Survive. The Imperial Parliament will certainly sit in London. Probably the present House of Parliament will provide its abode. The continuity of the British Empire from century to century will be preserved. It is only a symbol but a symbol of surpassing value in its effect on the human spirit. Politicians from the virile countries overseas will find nothing incongruous in the atmosphere of the home where Mr. Speaker Lenthall defied Charles I., where even to this day emissaries from the House of Lords have to knock and ask admission before they are admitted to the Chamber which represents the common people and governs the life of the country. I can see no break in the ancient customs which are embodied in the unwritten British Constitution—a Constitution which derives its strength from its pliability and its continuing adaptation to the new needs of the day. So far as the Constitution is concerned, I look to see it become even stronger than before by the accession of new ideas and the broadening of its field of action.

Keen, Tactful Judgment Goes With Free and Easy Manner—No Petty Work in His Policy of Enforcement—He Plans to Strike at the Source

ing friction by attempting to round up a few bottles hidden away here and there. He anticipates that the so-called "floor supply" will complicate matters for some time to come, but after this has dwindled the question of locating sources will be facilitated.

## How the Problem Works Out.

For example, here is how the problem is expected to work out in many cases:

In the town of X three men are found intoxicated by the authorities. Smith went on a jag instead of giving his pay to his wife and babies, and wishes all the rum in the world were thrown into the sea. He's through for good—or thinks he is—and has too many troubles of his own to suspect that any of his newly formed acquaintances are revenue agents. The latter mark Smith as a likely clue. Where did he get his supply? If the agents find that he had a few "left overs" or got part of a friend's carefully conserved reserve stock they drop him at once and turn their attention elsewhere. But if they find that he got his supply from Jones, a retailer, the plot becomes promising and the next move is to find "where Jones got it."

It turns out, for example, that Jones got it from Riley, who supplies a number of retailers, while Riley got it from Brown, the real wholesaler, who has a source of his own of somewhere in the woods and has a big list of prospective clients. By striking at Brown the Government eliminates the source without bothering any of the intermediaries. That is the general idea. The same plan has been followed very successfully by Mr. Mager's men in eliminating narcotics.

The problem of tracing down the source of supply for drug users is in some respects simpler because the addicts, as a rule, have a very small supply on hand. Of 500 addicts, for example, it may be found that none have more than a two days supply on hand, yet they are all and all count absolutely on getting more without difficulty. It is ascertained that they get it from the so-called drug peddlers, but these, in turn, carry only a limited amount and are supplied from a more bountiful source.

## Seeks the Main Source.

After the agent traces the supply down far enough he devotes all his talent to getting at a main source. Perhaps he ingratiates himself in the estimation of one of the intermediary peddlers accustomed to handling 100 ounces at a time and convinces him that he is "all right." When the time is ripe he makes his try for the big game.

"Send me in strong to your man," he says, using the parlance of the trade, "for I want to get 500 ounces. I'll give you the price of 100 ounces to fix it."

In many cases the dope peddler himself assumes the burden of convincing the main source that "his friend" is all right, that he can vouch for him. The 500 or more ounces are purchased with marked money. The law swoops down on the main source and months of unnecessary intermediary work are eliminated.

The plan of striking at the source of supply eliminates, Mr. Mager is overheard to believe, much of the uncertainty of the present method, which would certainly embarrass many citizens who are virtually guiltless of any wrong doing. The head of the household with a few bottles stored away is going to be as safe from molestation from Mr. Mager's men as if he had them locked in a bomb proof vault.

The idea of searching homes without good reason or prying into private household affairs in an endeavor to find evidence is abhorrent to Mr. Mager, and he believes it a fundamental violation of the Constitution. Before he permits any homes to be searched he sees to it that the search warrants are valid and before they get search warrants they will have to show something very convincing and substantial in the way of evidence.

Not even traveller's baggage can be searched without a warrant by Mr. Mager's men. Some of them apparently believed it part of the game to hold up suspicious looking travellers and search their luggage and as soon as Mr. Mager heard of it he took steps to nip this sort of business in a hurry. A warning of unmistakable character has just gone out to the agents not to search any one's baggage without a search warrant.

The petty method of bothering law-abiding citizens in the hope of find-

ing an occasional law breaker is not going to be tolerated. In other words prohibition is not going to be enforced by throttling the individual liberties of the American citizen. No such method is adjudged necessary. There are right ways and wrong ways of enforcing the law, according to Mr. Mager.

## Cooperates With His Men.

The warning sent out must not be interpreted to mean that Mr. Mager rules the men under him with an iron hand or is always ready to rap them over the knuckles when they make a false move. His policy is quite the contrary. It is cooperation and encouragement to all, and if mistakes of judgment are made Mr. Mager seeks out the men, talks things over with them and tries to convince them of the wisdom of a different course.

He believes results might undoubtedly be attained by tyrannical methods, by threatening to remove men under his immediate control, by keeping his office force in constant awe, but he believes better results can be had by "getting the men to work willingly and enthusiastically" with him. One is the wrong method and the other the right one, he believes. He hopes to even have part of the formerly thirsty public wholeheartedly with him in his plan for carrying out the duties of his office toward prohibition enforcement. He believes that there are relatively few men who will sincerely desire to prevent enforcement of the law.

By reason of his supervisory duties, it is often necessary for Mr. Mager to make quick jumps from one city to another. Where delicate matters of judgment come up he wants to be on the spot, to talk things over with his men, to give them needed additional authority to act, to reinforce their views as to methods of procedure, &c. All this means work and more of it. As a result Mr. Mager has little time nowadays for recreation. His service in the field has made him athletic and fond of outdoor games. He is a baseball fan and expects always to remain one. He drives his automobile with something of the expertness of a racer and could qualify as a chauffeur if he had no other opportunities open to him.

If he makes a record in helping stamp out violations of the prohibition act and in carrying on a campaign against tobacco he will be among the victims for he likes a good cigar and finds smoking helpful to his work, although he does not say so. But if he had the duty of stamping out smoking he would probably start out after the sources of supply and permit his men to smoke while the supply lasted.

## Filipino Conductorettes

NOT to be outdone in progressive ways by their Occidental neighbors, Filipino girls have recently walked right into well paying jobs as "conductorettes" on the new auto bus lines established at Manila to supplement the war time shortage of street cars in that city. In spite of the initial shock conveyed to the conservative element of the island, the girls are going to work through the streets as being highly gratified with the results, and the girls, with their 40 pesos a month jingling in their pockets, being equally delighted. In view of the great difficulty previously experienced in handling the passenger traffic in Manila, and other places, the auto bus innovation has been in the nature of a godsend, especially to that portion of the population dependent upon cheap transportation, and the enthusiastic reception which has greeted these mammoth street cars has not been lessened by the presence upon them of the trimly uniformed conductorettes, each equipped with an official whistle and with a collection box swung in a businesslike way from the shoulders.

There are at present thirteen buses in operation on the various lines and the number is expected to increase to fifty within a few months time. The type of car now in use carries about thirty passengers, but the new cars, it is said, will have a capacity of sixty. Up to date two floors, the first of which carries passengers, and the second four million fares have been carrying averaging around a million a month more.

## Beethoven Home in Austria

LUDWIG VON BEETHOVEN, the eminent composer-pianist who was born at Bonn, Austria, in 1770, was perhaps one of the greatest examples of patience ever known. At the age of 30 he was afflicted with deafness, yet struggled on, completing masterpieces and living exclusively in his art. Until a Russian attack with blindness, the full freshness of his powers, Beethoven is without a peer in the history of all ages, either in misery or in bliss. So said his dearest friend, who knew him during his years of affliction and also success, the latter of which came to him mostly in Austria's capital.

Beethoven Park in Vienna has been frequented by countless tourists, it being a natural park named in honor of the composer. In Beethoven's prime he used to spend hours each day under a certain tree contemplating music and upon this spot a wooden stump remains with an inscription to that effect. Close by is an old iron bench upon which he used to rest. To the left is a beautiful statue of the musician in life size. A large fountain plays in front of this picturesque place and upon this spot a wooden stump remains with an inscription to that effect. Making it all in all the most attractive section of the park.

Two or three blocks east is the neighborhood of the Beethoven home. The square roof with its large brick chimney figures the description of the exterior of this abode. Low ceiling and petit box rooms mark the inside. At the extreme top there is a window so tiny that a person's head could just about manage to get through. But the quaintness and oddity of the house is in keeping somehow with Beethoven, who said, "The world will be beyond the reach of the world's misery." It was here in Vienna on March 26, 1827, amidst a terrific thunderstorm that the genius soul of the much beloved Beethoven passed on.

## Concerning the Flea

IT is said that the entomologist Charles Rothchild has a private collection of fleas numbering 100,000 at his establishment in Tring, near London; that there are over 400 different species of flea already classified, and that it is known that there are other species not as yet scientifically catalogued.

It appears that there is not much prospect that the birth rate in fleas will diminish, since Mrs. Flea lays her eggs the year round from one to five at a time. But, like many other insects and mammals, she is callous as to the fate of her offspring, for she takes no interest whatever in her eggs and leaves her young to shift for themselves from the day of their birth.

Certain fleas, it further appears, are more catholic in their tastes than others. Some seem to be strictly confined to one host, although at the same time it should be borne in mind that no fleas are more than what are called "temporary parasites," which means that they pass but a portion of their lives on their hosts, hopping on and off at intervals. All fleas apparently proceed from host to host.

## They Like the Old Home.

But although they may occasionally pass from one species of host to another they do not, for the most part, seem to flourish in unaccustomed quarters. For that reason a "human" flea is only sometimes found on cats and dogs, and "cat" and "dog" fleas only occasionally on human beings. One of the most curious facts regarding animal fleas is that all hosts of prey are sometimes found to harbor the fleas of animals they have devoured.

Perhaps the most surprising infor-

mation gathered with respect to fleas is that monkeys have no fleas. This is an assertion that is commonly received with astonishment and incredulity, but, says Howard Russell, the foremost authority on fleas, healthy wild monkeys are much too clean and active to harbor fleas, and when they are seen searching one another's fur in a fashion familiar to all of us it is only to clear their skin of any particles of scurf and dirt.

It may be mentioned too that only one instance is of record where a flea was found on a reptile. This was on a brown snake which was captured near Perth, in West Australia, and which was probably derived from some small mammal devoured by the snake. The flea was firmly fixed between the scaly plates of the reptile.

## A Flea in Amber.

The history of the flea would seem to go back many centuries, but the only fossil remains of a flea that have so far been found is a single insect in a bit of Baltic amber. The flea is admirably preserved by its semi-transparent surroundings, and is in the collection of Prof. Clebs.

When we consider how remote are the chances that a flea should get embedded in amber and should subsequently be detected and described by a scientist we may well understand that the owner asked, but without success, \$5,000 for it.

There is a very serious as well as a curious aspect to the study of the flea. The scientific study of fleas has received a great impetus since it has been ascertained that they are active agents in spreading disease. It is for this reason that the scientist devotes some part of their time to an investigation of the life and habits of the elusive little fellow.